

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Michael R. Turner
“Preparations for the 2010 Decennial Census”
April 24, 2007**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this important hearing on a timely subject. I commend the Chairman for building on the work of the last Congress to ensure a fair and accurate census in the year 2010.

Census Day is April 1, 2010 and we have three short years to make sure everything is in place for the enormous task of enumerating those that reside in the United States.

Today, we will examine important components that are key to the upcoming census: the short form only census, the American Community Survey, the Local Update of Census Addresses program and the myriad of technology issues associated with the decennial census. It is important for Congress and the American public to understand the role and value of each of these components for the implementation of a successful census.

The census has been administered every 10 years since the Revolutionary War. The constitutionally mandated enumeration of residents is politically important in that it directly affects the reapportionment of Representatives in Congress, the redistribution of tax dollars for programs and services, redrawing state legislative districts, as well as other public policy and business decisions.

As a result, we must ensure that every effort is being made to achieve the most accurate and efficient enumeration. The

1990 Census fell short of expectations primarily because of costs. That Census greatly exceeded its budget. In contrast, the 2000 Census is considered a success. This traditional census was done on time and within budget due to better management, less employee turnover, and an emphasis on counting actual people.

Although the 2000 Census was an improvement over the 1990 Census, it was still expensive, used too much paper, and was in some cases inefficient.

Having learned valuable lessons from both the 1990 and 2000 censuses, I am eager to hear from our witnesses today on what the Census Bureau has already accomplished, what efforts are currently underway, and what more is planned for the next three years to make certain that we get the most accurate census count on time and within budget.

I yield back my time.